

REMARKS

Status of Claims

By way of the instant amendment, claim 5 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-8 are cancelled. Only claim 9 remains for examination.

Prior Art Rejection

The instant amendment to claim 9 is intended to further clarify an advantage unique to the invention of the present application, that is, the advantage that, because, where the processor performs processing such as working for all of packets and data which pass the circuit section, if a fault occurs, then only data in the data link layer or an upper layer does not flow, even if no fault occurs with the physical layer of the circuit, disconnection of the circuit can be recognized by the associated terminal equipment or the like. To this end, a limitation to claim 9 has been added such that, when a fault of interruption of supply of the clock from the oscillator occurs, data in a data link layer or an upper layer does not flow from the processor or the circuit section. Further, another claim limitation has been added, namely a notification of occurrence of a fault to a central control section connected to an external console.

Simone (US Patent No. 6,202,090)

Simone is directed to a system which solves a problem, when a fault occurs, of how to store a dump image of a processor memory and how to allow an external supervising apparatus to download. Claim 9 describes that, when a fatal error occurs, a network device is shut down. It appears that the communication with an external apparatus is interrupted once in order to perform an internal process against the fault rather than that a notification of the fault is issued to an external apparatus.

Nakamura (JP02-226432)

Nakamura is directed to discrimination of whether a clock fault occurs or a fault occurs with a logic section and to notification of a result of the discrimination to a fault

processing control section. Nakamura is silent with regard to particular fault processing control.

Fukuda (JP01-311792)

Fukuda is directed to remote resetting or remote restarting of a control object apparatus from an external supervising apparatus. Here, “resetting” indicates continuous resetting and restarting signifies restarting after resetting. As a countermeasure, the external supervising apparatus transmits a “continuous data pattern” for remote resetting or remote restarting to the control object apparatus and the control object apparatus identifies the pattern to perform a process.

Fukuda is silent regarding a means for or a method of issuing a notification of occurrence of a fault in the control object apparatus to the external supervising apparatus.

It seems that the examiner misunderstands the wording of continuous signaling.

In Fukuda (JP01-311792), the control object apparatus determines resetting if, for example, “1” successively appears twice in the data pattern for remotely resetting or remotely restarting the control object apparatus from the external supervising apparatus, and this does not mean continuation of resetting.

In the invention of the present application, the wording of continuous signaling simply means “continuation” of resetting of the processor.

The invention of the present application achieves an advantage that, when a clock fault of an apparatus occurs, the apparatus autonomously continues to reset a packet processor to stop packet data in all of the data link layer and upper layers so that the data in the data link layer and upper layers which may possibly be produced in error as a result of the occurrence of a fault is not transmitted to an associated terminal equipment (and as a result, to the entire network).

Where the techniques of the three prior art documents are combined, it is difficult to achieve the advantage described above. When a clock fault occurs, there is the possibility that

packet data to be transmitted from the control object apparatus to the associated supervising apparatus may include an error, and it is difficult to correctly discriminate a failure of the control object apparatus based on the data.

According to the present invention, the control object apparatus autonomously performs fault detection and continuous resetting of the processor.

Acknowledgment of Priority Document

The examiner is **AGAIN** requested to acknowledgement receipt of the claim for convention priority as well as the certified copy of the priority document, all of which were filed together with applicant's specification on June 7, 2000.

Conclusion

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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